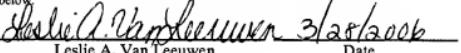


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: \$ Group Art Unit: 3623  
 Bush, et. al. \$ Confirmation No.: 6649  
 Serial No.: 10/015,484 \$ Examiner: Deshpande, Kalyan K  
 Filed: December 13, 2001 \$ Attorney Docket No.  
 Title: System and Method for \$ AUS920010977US1  
Managing Capacity of  
Professional and Technical  
Services \$ IBM Corporation  
\$ Intellectual Property Law  
\$ Dept.  
\$ 11400 Burnet Road  
\$ Austin, Texas 78758

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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 Leslie A. Van Leeuwen 3/28/2006 Date

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

**A. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of January 4, 2006, with a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 4, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and reexamination of the present application in light of the following remarks and amendments.

No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447.